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N THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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COMMUNICATION

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The attention of the Examiner is directed to recently issued U.S. patent No. 7,278,352, which issued on October 9, 2007. That patent has a common inventor with the subject application, and is assigned, in first to the assignee of the subject application.

The '352 patent is believed <u>not</u> to be prior art. Its PCT filing date of December 15, 2003 is after the PCT filing date of the subject U.S. patent application. Its 35 USC 371 filing date is also subsequent to the filing date of the subject U.S. patent application. It is being brought to the attention of the Examiner in accordance with conservative practice.

Respectfully submitted,

Andreas KÜMMET
Applicant

JONES, TULLAR & COOPER, P.C. Attorneys for Applicant

Douglas R. Hanscom Reg. No. 26,600

December 4, 2007 JONES, TULLAR & COOPER, P.C. P.O. Box 2266 Eads Station Arlington, Virginia 22202 (703) 415-1500 Attorney Docket: W1.2247 PCT-US